

10/6/92

Helmut,

Ruth and I met with Chuck Lister and Odd Nilsen on June 4 in Basle at Chuck's request. Before Odd reviewed the status of the work, he described how his work has come to be quoted in the Norwegian press, radio and television. A new medical centre has been opened at Trondheim University and as an introduction seven research projects, Odd's among them, were sent to the press to illustrate the type of work being done. Ingemo Bonnier was sent a copy of his release and had no comments. As a consequence the Nicotine-in-hair(NIH) work featured in the three leading Norwegian newspapers, several of the leading radio stations, both local and national, and on TV. I asked Odd to send Chuck copies of all this, especially the TV report, since Odd said the concluding remarks were positive towards ETS. Also as a result of this he has been asked to be a collaborator in a future Norwegian Center for Health study that will involve 100000 children and look at the correlation between ETS exposure and asthma.

He has also been asked to talk about his work at IUTOX '92 and to submit a two page summary of his methodology for future publication in the journal of the Norwegian Epidemiology Society.

During the discussion he stated that in the Finnish study no correlation had been found between ETS exposure and FEV1.0. Lister later said that he had told Odd this project was no longer funded. Nilsen mentioned several times that he would like to put on an international conference on exposure monitoring, preferably in early '93.

Since our last meeting no further papers had been published because the calibrations at 20, 5 and 1 micrograms/m³ were still incomplete. In the available data, a correction of approximately 3 ug/m³ had to be applied to the exposure values because of some loss of nicotine. There was also some evidence from the 5 and 20 ug/m³ exposures that NIH concentrations can become saturated within the 8 week exposure period.

Early this year S&T loaned Odd a TNO briefcase sampler so that he could do on-line monitoring of various exposure parameters in a room where hair samples were exposed to actual ETS, as opposed to vapour phase nicotine. Hair samples that had been previously separated into high and low absorbers by chamber exposures, were exposed in this room and again separated into two discrete groups, with each group having a large range of NIH values. An analysis by S&T of some previous hair exposure data from Trondheim also demonstrates this variability. It also shows that the linear fit to the data is misleading, and not an accurate predictor of NIH values at low nicotine concentrations.

It was felt that a lot of benefit could be gained by talking to an expert on hair physiology, and that determining where and how nicotine was bound in hair would also help answer many of the issues brought up.

Nilsen is going to put together a research proposal for next year and send it to Chuck Lister. Items he felt should be given priority are

1. Systemic vs external sources using nicorette as a nicotine source.
2. Mechanisms of NIH.
3. Saturation effects.
4. In vivo vs In vitro values.

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